

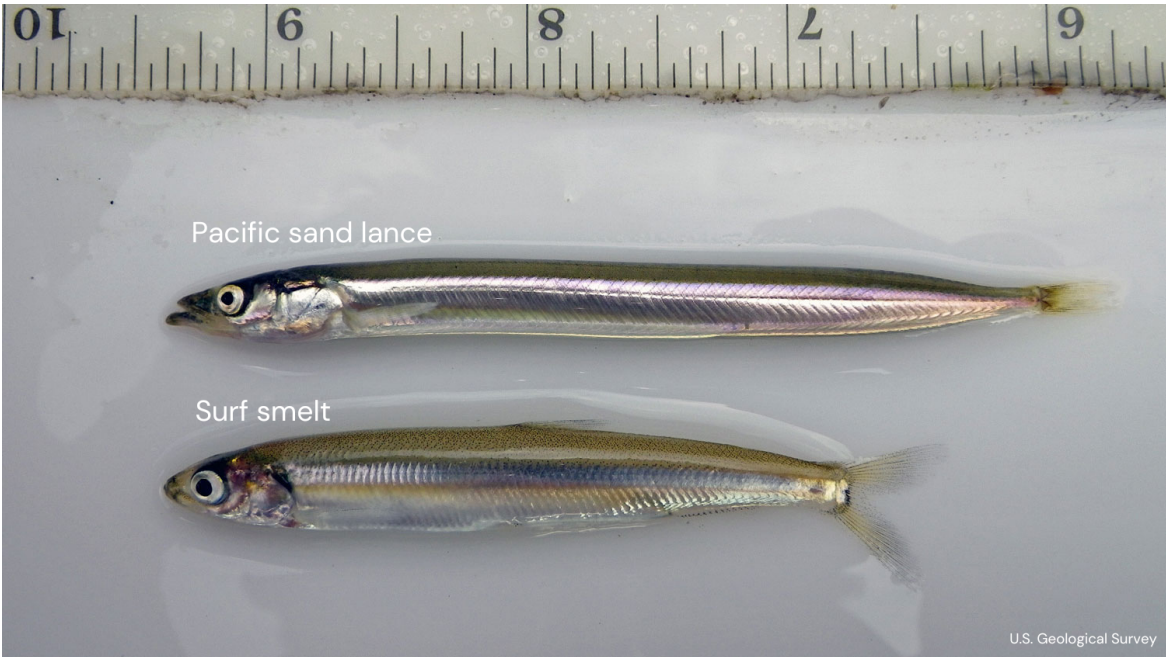


Hey there!

Welcome back to **The Schooler: Issue 3**—your bimonthly PSS newsletter for all things forage fish. Here, we'll provide key updates on recent survey findings and other program news.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in protecting and understanding the critical habitats that sustain forage fish. This work would not be possible without our amazing volunteers and community partners!

Let's dive in!

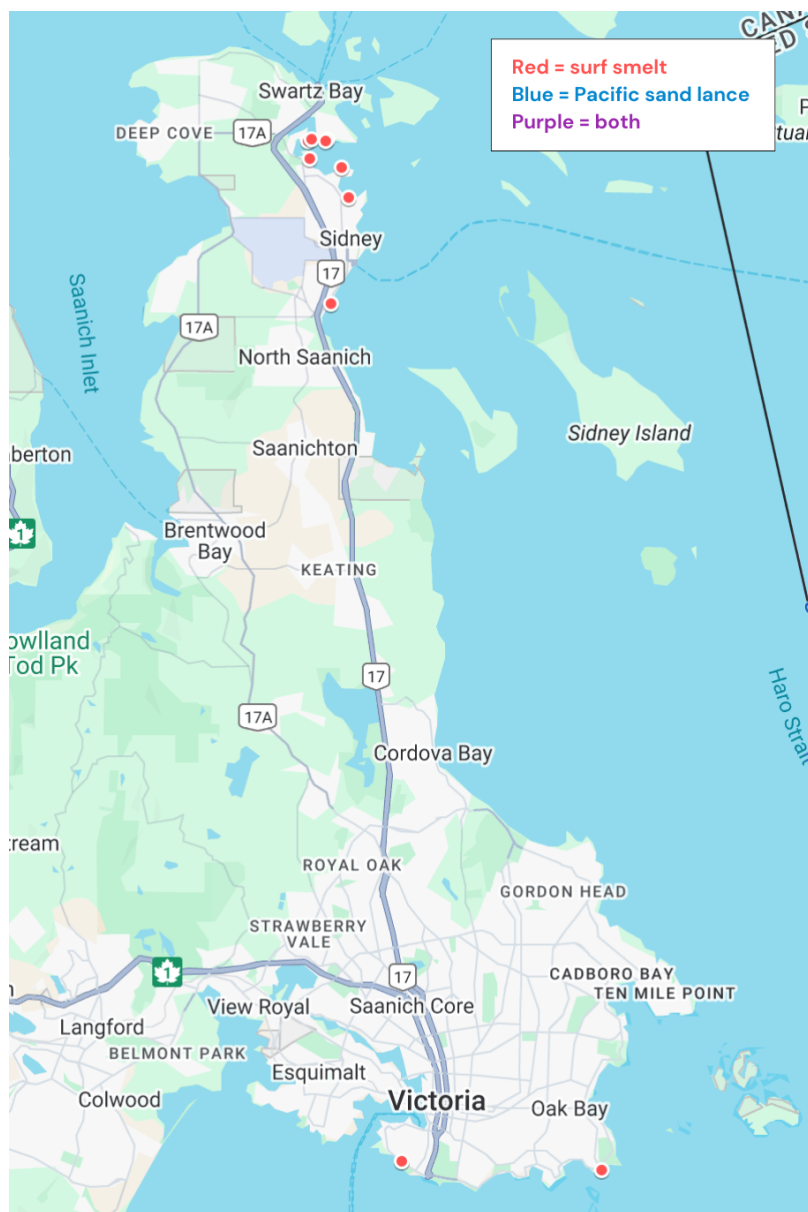


Here are the results for surveys completed **since the last edition** in April 2025:

Location	Date	Surf	Pacific
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Location	Date	smelt	sand lance
Tryon Beach: Site 1	Mar 28, 2025	195	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Apr 22, 2025	850	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 1	Apr 30, 2025	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 3	May 1, 2025	0	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	May 2, 2025	6	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	May 2, 2025	1,181	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 5	May 3, 2025	3	0
Haynes Park Beach: Site 2	May 4, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 2	May 5, 2025	885	0
Taylor Beach: Site 4	May 9, 2025	0	0
Holland Point Park: Site 2	May 12, 2025	1	0
Tryon Beach: Site 1	May 16, 2025	446	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 1	May 18, 2025	12	0
Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 2	May 19, 2025	3	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 4	May 20, 2025	3	0
Cordova Bay Beach: Site 1 (Agate Park)	May 21, 2025	0	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 2	May 22, 2025	0	0
Royal Beach: Site 1	May 29, 2025	0	0
Royal Beach: Site 3	May 29, 2025	0	0
Willows Park Beach: Site 7	May 29, 2025	0	0
McMicking Point: Site 1	May 29, 2025	5	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 3	Jun 2, 2025	2	0
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club Beach: Site 2	Jun 2, 2025	0	0
Goddard Beach: Site 1	Jun 3, 2025	0	0
Seaspan Beach: Site 1	Jun 9, 2025	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 1	Jun 10, 2025	0	0
Esquimalt Lagoon Beach: Site 2	Jun 10, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 2	Jun 14, 2025	8	0
Roberts Bay Beach: Site 4	Jun 15, 2025	0	0
Billings Spit: Site 3	Jun 18, 2025	0	0

Lillian Hoffar Park Beach: Site 1	Jun 17, 2025	0	0
Tryon Beach: Site 1	Jun 20, 2025	104	0
Tulista Park Beach: Site 1	Jun 21, 2025	0	0
Breakwater Beach: Site 1	Jun 23, 2025	0	0
Albert Head Lagoon Beach: Site 1	Jun 26, 2025	0	0
Albert Head Lagoon Beach: Site 3	Jun 26, 2025	0	0



That's a total of **36 surveys—15 positive for eggs! 198 volunteer hours** went into these results; a huge thank you to each and every community scientist who contributed their time and hard work.

#### Highlights:

- Eggs found for the first time at McMicking Point (5 surf smelt & 1 Pacific herring).
- Egg found for the first time at Holland Point Park/Dallas Road (1 surf smelt).

Don't see one of your submitted surveys? If it was towards the end of the month, it likely didn't make the cutoff for the issue and will be included in the next. If not, please email [chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca](mailto:chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca).



The **Beach Bulletin** is a living space for sampling tips & tricks, program updates, volunteer features, and any other tidbits ("beach bites"). This is **open to all volunteers for contribution**; if there's anything you'd like to share with your fellow forage fish community scientists—some sampling/microscoping advice, a survey anecdote, team member feature, or cool wildlife sighting—we warmly encourage you to send it our way at [chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca](mailto:chloe.kraemer@peninsulastreams.ca)!

#### **This issue's beach bites:**

**Summer Spawning:** Although our peak spawning season has ended, surf smelt do spawn all year round. Keeping up our sampling effort is key for helping us to identify critical summer spawning beaches for surf smelt. Remember to stay hydrated and use sun protection! ✨

**PSS Forage Fish Program Logo:** If you remember from last edition, we revealed our new forage fish program logo from talented W̱SÁNEĆ artist [Sarah Jim](#). We now have an amazing artist statement from her, check it out below!

*"The BEACH Program logo was designed to advocate for the protection of our coastal ecosystems, with a focus on the surf smelt, a vital forage fish. Surf smelt spawn in the shallow intertidal zones, and when the tide goes out, their eggs are left exposed on the sand—vulnerable to predation and human impact. The logo utilizes forced perspective to highlight this fragility, showing tiny eggs nestled among rocks at the bottom of the image, with more clusters beneath the central fish. Silhouettes of additional smelt in the background represent the schooling behaviour of this species.*

*Framing the scene are native plants, KEXMIN and silky beach pea; two native plants that are species at risk and play critical roles in coastal ecosystems. These plants not only support biodiversity but have long provided food, medicine, and materials for Indigenous communities and native animals and pollinators. The moon in the logo speaks to natural cycles and the fact that surf smelt often lay their eggs at night. Four stars represent ancestors and future generations—those who have guided us and those we hold responsibility toward.*

*Coast Salish design elements are embedded within the surf smelt to honour the longstanding and continued connection of Indigenous people to these lands and waters. This artwork*

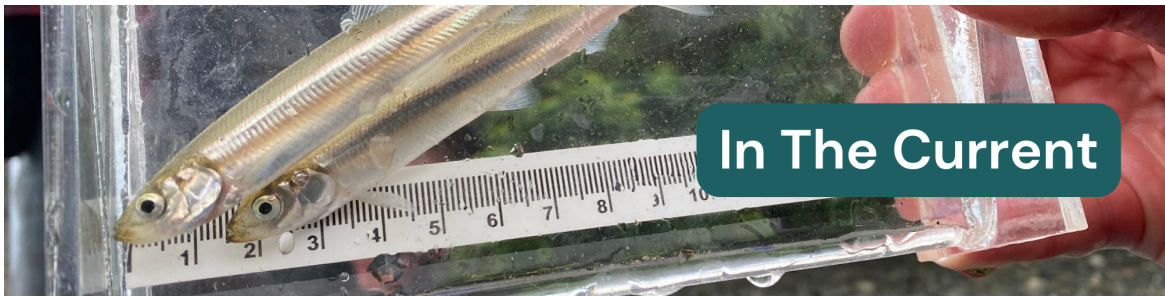


*reflects the deep relationships we hold with these places, and it serves as a reminder of the importance of Indigenous stewardship in environmental advocacy."*



**BEACH Program Review & Strategy Session:** On May 12th, we hosted a review and strategy session for our BEACH Program at the Institute of Ocean Sciences. We provided an overview of our recent forage fish, European green crab, eDNA, education, and shoreline restoration/monitoring efforts. 24 attendees, ranging from volunteers to working professionals from partner organizations, dove into discussion and brainstorming activities to help us reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the program and future directions. Read a summary of the main feedback [here](#). Thank you to all those who attended!





**Wanting to dive deeper? Wade into this issue's current events and news below:**

[CFFN Website and Data Dashboard](#): The Coastal Forage Fish Network (CFFN) now has an official website! Hosted on [Pacific Salmon Foundation's Marine Data Centre](#), the CFFN website features background on the network, learning resources, and an interactive dashboard where users can explore where forage fish eggs have been found across the BC coast. Check it out!

[Free Green Shores for Homes Assessments](#): Do you own a shoreline property on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island or the Gulf Islands? You could be eligible for a free Green Shores for Homes assessment from the Stewardship Centre for BC as part of the [Resilient Coasts for Salmon](#) project. Participating homeowners will receive a free onsite assessment, detailing nature-based options to address issues like erosion and flooding, and determine eligibility for a new financial incentives program. You can also check out Resilient Coasts for Salmon's two new articles—[Monitoring Shorelines](#) (to learn how you can track changes on your shoreline and evaluate your restoration project over time) and [How to Design Effective Shoreline Access](#) (to learn how to incorporate beautiful and functional shoreline access paths into your restoration project while building habitat at the same time).

Thanks so much for tuning in! Catch you in our next issue in August.

**Chloe Kraemer**

*BEACH Program Coordinator*

Peninsula Streams & Shorelines

Living and working within Coast and Straits Salish territory, the territories of the Lekwungen peoples, known today as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, the T'Sou-ke Nation, and the WSÁNEĆ peoples, known today as WJOLELP (Tsartlip), BOKECEN (Pauquachin), S7ÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and MÁLEXEL (Malahat) Nations.

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